



For Immediate Release

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Wells Fargo to sign Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Rich Owens of the Alaska Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, announced that Richard Strutz, Wells Fargo Alaska regional president, will sign a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve on April 25, 2012. The signing ceremony will occur at the Wells Fargo Alaska headquarters building on Northern Lights Boulevard and C Street in the fifth floor boardroom at 8 a.m.

The Statement of Support confirms that Wells Fargo in Alaska joins other employers in pledging that:

- We fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA).
- Our managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.
- We will continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crises and in war.

“Today, supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units. I am asking all Alaska employers to take a look at their current human resources policies to incorporate policies supportive of Guard and Reserve employees,” Owen said. “Many Alaska employers provide ‘Above and Beyond’ support with pay differential to offset the loss of wages and extension of health care benefits, which complement coverage provided by the military, when their employees are mobilized.”

When asked about the criteria, Rich Owens said, “By meeting the Statement of Support criteria, Wells Fargo pledges to stand proudly with its Guard and Reserve employees, who continue to answer their nation's call to defend our way of life. Their personal sacrifices are essential to the strength of our nation.”

“Wells Fargo proudly supports all of our Alaska team members serving in the National Guard and Reserve,” Strutz said. “We recognize that our team members have made incredible personal sacrifices to defend our freedom, support their families and help our Alaska customers succeed financially. Thank you

to all of our Alaska veterans and active duty service members. It's an honor to serve those who serve our country."

In 2011, Wells Fargo was honored with the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the DOD's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. Wells Fargo and Company stood out among 4,049 nominations submitted by National Guard and Reserve service members or their families. Freedom Award recipients distinguish themselves by going to extraordinary lengths to support their military employees.

"As a nearly 32-year Guardsman, I have seen first-hand the difference between non-supportive versus supportive employers direct impact on National Guard and Reserve personnel in the conduct of our missions," said Brigadier General Leon "Mike" Bridges, commander, Alaska Army National Guard. "These signed and visual statements of support are a huge and positive symbol to all of America's citizen-soldiers that what we do is important to our nation and its safety and prosperity."

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972 to develop and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce. For more information about ESGR Outreach Programs or ESGR volunteer opportunities, please call 800-336-4590 or visit www.ESGR.mil.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
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